

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/731,596	FYFIELD, MARGARET S.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Yennhu B. Huynh	2813

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to 1/27/05.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-15.
3.  The drawings filed on \_\_\_\_\_ are accepted by the Examiner.
4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All    b)  Some\*    c)  None    of the:
    1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 03/10/05.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

  
**CARL WHITEHEAD, JR.**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**  
**TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800**

## **DETAILED ACTION**

This Office Action is in response to the Amendment filed on 1/27/05.

Claims 16-20 are cancelled by the Amendment filed on 1/27/05.

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

The information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

### ***Oath/Declaration***

Oath/Declaration filed on 12/6/00 is accepted.

### ***Drawings***

New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application because the application was allowed. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsperson outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

Claims amended overcome rejections. Rejections withdrawn.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-15 are allowable over the prior art of record.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Prior art does not disclose or suggest a method for probing a semiconductor wafer, which includes the step of:

-Retaining the wafer in a recess of the probe fixture in a position in which the front side of the wafer is initially facing up, by applying one of reduced pressure or vacuum to the wafer, in combination with the other limitations (cls. 1 & 5).

-Extending a rail across and above the wafer retained in the probe fixture, and supporting the entire probe from the rail above the wafer when the probe tip extends into contact with a contact surface of the IC, in combination with the other limitations (cl.11)

The above limitations for claims 1,5 & 11 are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yennhu B Huynh whose telephone number is 571-272-1692. The examiner can normally be reached on 8.30AM-7.00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl Whitehead, Jr., can be reached on 571-272-1702. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-

Application/Control Number: 09/731,596  
Art Unit: 2813

Page 4

308-7722 for regular communications and 703-308-7722 for After Final  
communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or  
proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-  
7724.

YNBH,  
031005